Consumption of Refind Copper

1297. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of refined copper in the country has been increasing steadily and refined copper is imported to meet the requirement;

(b) the production of refined copper by different units during 2004-05 and the quantity imported during the year; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of refined copper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The consumption of refined copper in India has been increasing. However, as the production capacity has also increased substantially, India currently is a net exporter of refined copper.

(b) The production of refined primary copper by the three major producing companies in the year 2004-05 was 413543 tonnes. 31081 tonnes of refined copper have been imported during 2004-05.

(c) To increase production of copper, Government has opened up non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector for private investment, including foreign direct investment. Installed capacity of major private sector manufacturers has been enhanced substantially. Hindustan Copper Limited, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, is also taking steps for enhancing its mining capacity.

Labour issues in Mining

1298. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many labour related issues in mining sector and also in lad acquisition;

(b) is so, whether any action has been taken to solve those issues;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The welfare of mine workers engaged in iron